



VOL. XXXIV.

AUGUSTA, MAINE, THURSDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 15, 1866.

NO. 49.

# The Maine Farmer

N. T. TRUE,  
S. L. BOARDMAN, Editors.

Our Home, Our Country, and our Brother Man.

November.

We are fast sailing along through the month of November. Nature has dropped her garbs of summer, and is wrapped in deep slumber. The sun, if he shines upon us at all, sends forth his rays through an atmosphere chilled by the cold of the previous night. We awake on some morning and find the ground sounding hard to the tramp of the horse's feet, like a pavement. The winds, when they blow, all seem cold and disagreeable to us. We instinctively put on more clothing to guard against the assaults of winter, and draw our bedclothes closer to us as we think of the stifling atmosphere with which we shall surely be surrounded. We have gathered our harvests. The cattle have their snug stalls, the pigs have a warm nest, the house is banked up when necessary, double windows are provided to let in the cold and save the wood, the wood lot is resorted to gather the fuel for the coming year, while the long evenings enable us to read the newspapers and books, to listen to the music of the family, and to enjoy the intercourse of our neighbors and friends. November comes in with clear and freezing breath, and we enjoy our blessings with a keener relish. We surely pity the person who has no resources wherewith to pass the long fall and winter evenings with some rational pleasure. See to it that you have everything tight around the premises. Take care of the children, and see that they have warm and thick shoes or boots and stockings for winter. Keep their feet dry and warm, and you may cheat the doctor out of a large bill. See that the school-house is tight and warm, and in good order. This is the agent's business, but sometimes he needs reminding of his duty. Provide your children with all necessary books and reading. If a child is fond of reading a good book, see that it is provided. It is a good investment for the future. Now the harvests are ended it is the time when we should devote means for our winter's enjoyment as well as employment. It is wrong for a young and healthy person to do away the winter months in idleness. Leave that to the aged and infirm.

## Books on Stock-Breeding—Cart Wheels.

MESSES. EDITORS—I would like to be informed through the FARMER, of the best Hand-Book on breeding of farm stock, hogs, &c., and where it can be found, price, &c. Also which is best and cheapest in the market, or for what object? What kind of wood is best for a wheel rim? Please in A. SUBSCRIBER.

Portland, Oct. 30th, 1866.

There is no one volume we can recommend as likely to meet your wants. We would advise you to procure, first of all, as a book to be studied, Goodale's *Principles of Breeding*, price \$1. "The Barn Yard," a Manual of Domestic Animals," by D. H. Jacques, price \$1, is a handy book, but would we recommend Jennings on Swine and Poultry, price \$2; Allen's *Domestic Animals*, price \$1; Youatt & Martin on Cattle, price \$1.50; Randall's *Practical Sheepherd*, price \$2; Herbert's *Hints to Horse-Keepers*, price \$1.75; Cole's *American Veterinarian*, price 75 cents, and Youatt & Martin on the Hog, price \$1. The above, or a selection from them, would furnish you with a good stock of winter reading, and the information gained thereby more than repay the cost. They can be procured of A. Williams & Co., 100 Washington St., Boston.

Iron hubs are far preferable to wood for ox-cart wheels, provided the wheels are well made. If the spokes are not fitted with green cane they will soon work loose, begin to chafe, and in a short time the wheel will be almost worthless. The spokes to an iron hub should be made with a shoulder, and on being set, first inserted into white lead (the lead being mixed with oil), and made somewhat thicker than if used for painting). They will then retain their position much longer, and it will be impossible for water to find its way into the joint. If spokes are placed in wooden hubs the lead cannot be used. In driving them in, they would slip back, or, to use a common term among mechanics, would not "take." White oak is the best timber for spokes, but a gentleman in this city who has worked at the wheelwright business for twenty years, and is therefore informed in the matter, tells us that the wood known among all mechanics as "gray maple" is by far the best for felloes, of any wood known. He calls it a cross of the rock maple and the white maple. He is in some doubt as to its scientific name, but are inclined to think it is the variety known as *Acier nigra*. The wood is hard and firm, and is not so liable to crack as oak. The red hearted birch (*Betula nigra*) is also highly esteemed for wheel felloes, and is much used, care being taken that the heart of the wood only is worked—Eps.

**A Working Suit for Farmers.**

Farmers and mechanics need some kind of a substantial working dress—one that is cheaply made and easily put on and comfortably worn. It is very expensive working in a good suit of clothes and exposing them to the various kinds of labor incident to farm life. Put on a pair of new pants and get into an apple tree to trim or graft it, or go to repairing fence and you will be sure to make a rent in them before they are a day old. Such a thing rarely happens to an old pair. We invented a dress several years since which we have used and recommended to others much to their satisfaction. It is a sleeveless vest closed in front, and trowsers in one piece, with only one fastening with a strap behind the neck. The sleeve may be made sufficiently large to wear over a coat. The material should be of blue drilling. Thus, at a trifling expense a man can be readily fitted to graphite with any kind of work without a constant fear of tearing or mending his clothes, while the cost is not one-half part of a suit of ordinary clothing. It will often be convenient to wear in winter without any other clothing than a shirt. Any clever workman, who can make a pair of summer pants, can make one of these most useful articles. The only difficulty usually is not buying cloth enough to have them made sufficiently large. The suit should be large enough to wear over other garments, if necessary, and when the day's work is done it may be removed, others substituted, and the farmer is in complete trim to sit down of an evening dressed in clean clothes and ready to engage in conversation, reading, or any other amusement suited to a rational and intelligent mind. The cost of such a suit is trifling, and is more than made up by what it saves of other clothes.

**Plans for a Hen House.** We are unable, much to our regret, to comply with the request of our correspondent, C. L. A., of Byron, Mich., in giving the plan of a hen house large enough to accommodate from fifty to one hundred birds. You will probably find such a plan in any good work on keeping poultry, and should procure one if you design going into the business to an extent indicated by your query.

## Notings among the Farmers.

### Singular Freak of Nature—Names of Apples.

Farmers in this State are generally backward with their fall work on account of the wet weather which occurred in September, retarding the work of harvesting and throwing into the later fall months work unusually performed in that. But the favorable weather we have had since the great rain of Tuesday, 30th ult., and which we are now enjoying (we are writing on the 9th inst.) has been and is still being well employed by farmers. The regular and necessary fall work is not only being performed, but from a recent report extending into the country some forty miles from this place, we were not a little surprised to find many engaged in farm improvements of a permanent and some places quite extensive character. New buildings, fences, stone walls, drains, &c., were occasionally made stops for the purpose of conversing with farmers in regard to the particular work they had then in hand. Perhaps a brief mention of some of these improvements may not only be interesting to our readers, but serve as a sort of "spur" to many who are yet hesitating in regard to beginning any contemplated improvement.

At one place a gentleman who has lived for ten or fifteen years at least, within a few rods of the foot of a hill, the side of which abounds in springs, and yet has never had the water conducted to his buildings—although a man well to do in the world—was engaged in laying down a pipe for the purpose of carrying the water to his premises. The distance was not more than eight or ten rods, and the entire expense of the job, would not, we presume, amount to more than twenty-five dollars. Other farms on the same road were almost as well located to secure the advantages of good, never failing water in abundant supply as that of our friend above mentioned, upon no one of which, so far as we know, has it been improved. The farmer will be contented, we presume, to draw water for their stock and for family use, every day, year in and out, in all weather, and often at great inconvenience, because they are afraid of the cost, or cannot set themselves about the work necessary to introduce it into their dwellings—when, if they would but once enter upon the work in good earnest, the job would really be less gigantic and cost less money than they expected. Should the present weather continue two or three weeks longer, as it may possibly do, it is not yet too late to commence and carry through the work, provided the distance is not too great. We hope, for their own convenience in obtaining water for stock and other domestic uses, not only through the approaching winter but for all future time, many farmers will improve the few remaining weeks before the shutting in of winter, to provide a supply of good pure water in the manner indicated. Where this is impracticable, a cistern commanding the water from the bars and out-buildings, should be constructed. It will be found on many accounts to be better than a well, although the first cost may be more. Its importance in cases of fire, as alluded to by one of our correspondents this week, is not the least of its advantages.

Another farmer was engaged in draining a portion of his farm lying near the highway. He had in process of construction about seventy rods of drain. This was sunk about three feet from the surface, and stone and gravel a drain placed upon the stone to prevent the stone to prevent the dirt from working its way through, and the drain was then covered, the rocks and boulders being below reach of the plow. The stone placed in the bottom of the drain were taken from the surrounding fields, and thus a double purpose was secured. Other farmers we noticed taking advantage of this in somewhat different manner by placing the stones from fields into walls, thus forming a permanent barrier against cattle, and fitting the fields for better cultivation. While conversing with the farmer, engaged in draining, who informed us as we had thought the entire cost of the job would not exceed one dollar per rod—it was all performed with the regular farm tools, and hands—he pointed out to us from the road a field where he did something at draining about six years ago, and we could distinctly follow the course of the drain from the looks of the grass in the field, over and near the drains, looking, even at this season, remarkably large and green, while at a distance from them was more dried up.

Considering the abundance of beautiful native trees with which our forests are so well provided, we have often thought it strange that more farmers did not spend a little time each fall and spring in transferring them from their places of native growth to situations about their buildings, where they would not only afford shelter from the hot sun of summer, but give protection from the severe winds of winter. It looks cheerless to see a set of farm buildings situated upon a broad plain or upon some hillside, where the winter winds have full sweep over them, with no trees to interrupt its force, and contrasted with those buildings about which evergreens are judiciously placed—the prospect is certainly unpleasant. Now at slight expense of time and labor all this cheerlessness can be turned aside. Plant a belt of evergreens, the hemlock (*Abies canadensis*) is best, at a suitable distance from your buildings, upon the side most exposed to searching winds, and there will then be about the house a cheerful, comfortable appearance, and both man and beast will live longer and be more happy under such circumstances than when exposed to every gale, and for six months out of twelve have nothing but evergreens to look upon. We have known farmers to cut off quite large evergreen trees, at the top of the soil, and insert them in the ground about their buildings in the fall of the year, as one would set a stake. Set in this way they form a very good protection for one year, but with a little more trouble could be properly transplanted, and would remain for a life time. It is not yet too late to remove evergreens, for the best way of doing so, undoubtedly, is to remove with a strap behind the neck. The sleeve may be made sufficiently large to wear over a coat. The material should be of blue drilling. Thus, at a trifling expense a man can be readily fitted to graphite with any kind of work without a constant fear of tearing or mending his clothes, while the cost is not one-half part of a suit of ordinary clothing. It will often be convenient to wear in winter without any other clothing than a shirt. Any clever workman, who can make a pair of summer pants, can make one of these most useful articles. The only difficulty usually is not buying cloth enough to have them made sufficiently large. The suit should be large enough to wear over other garments, if necessary, and when the day's work is done it may be removed, others substituted, and the farmer is in complete trim to sit down of an evening dressed in clean clothes and ready to engage in conversation, reading, or any other amusement suited to a rational and intelligent mind. The cost of such a suit is trifling, and is more than made up by what it saves of other clothes.

We take pleasure in presenting our readers this week with a letter addressed to the Junior Editor, from Thomas S. Lang, Esq., who is now abroad for the benefit of his health. It was postmarked at the R. d. Hooper, Paris, Oct. 25th, and reached us on the 9th inst. As to Mr. Lang's health we have from other sources the most gratifying intelligence, but his medical counsel have forbid his writing to any extent. In a private note, Mr. Lang says: "I have visited the cow stables of Count De Chassel, containing about five hundred animals in each stall, and seven varieties, which, with permission, I shall write to you about." Our readers, we are sure, will greatly enjoy Mr. Lang's letter, and as he gains in health, which we most sincerely hope will be speedily and permanent, he has promised to write more full accounts of his observations upon the agriculture of the Old World. We appreciate his kind words in behalf of our journal, and are gratified that his reception to him in a foreign land is a source of pleasure.

We are indebted to Mr. Lang for a copy of the London Times, of Oct. 17th, containing an account of the great Reform Demonstration at Glasgow, Scotland, at which 150,000 persons were present, John Bright, M. P., delivering a most eloquent and forcible speech.

### The Adirondack Grape.

We are indebted to John W. Bailey & Co., Plattsburgh, N. Y.—through J. H. Clapp Esq., of this city—for beautiful clusters of this new and most valuable variety. They were picked about the middle of September, and are not, of course, so fresh in flavor as if grown in the vineyard, but the grape is on a par with any other grapes—more so, we believe, than any other native or hybrid we have yet tasted. It is said to be very productive, and the fruit hangs long upon the vine. That it ripens ten or fifteen days earlier than the Delaware, is sufficient evidence in its favor for our climate.

We are glad that Mr. Moses Noble of this city, has accepted the agency for the sale of vines in this vicinity, and all grape growers should give it a trial.

**The American Artisan.** We have received several copies of the *American Artisan and Patent Recorder*, a weekly journal of Arts, Mechanics, Manufacturers, Mining, Engineering, and Chemistry, and Reporter of Patents, published at 189 Broadway, New York, by Brown, Compton & Co., at the rate of \$2.50 per annum, in advance. It is a very useful publication for the mechanic and the artisan, containing much that is valuable to them, and illustrated with cuts and diagrams of the latest inventions in machinery and other departments. We cheerfully commend it to our mechanics, artisans and farmers as worthy of their support.

**Plan for a Hen House.** We are unable, much to our regret, to comply with the request of our corre-

### Protection for Vines, &c.

The necessity for winter protection to strawberries, grapes, &c., in our climate, is as obvious, that no one needs but to be reminded of it to put it in practice. This reminder is so well given in the *Wallingford Circular* of a recent date, that we transfer it to our columns as entirely appropriate to our

society to be drawn. The well drained lands are being worked and the newly sown seed is growing rapidly, while lands not drained are lying idle. Excuse me, but I am not so much interested upon this matter, but knowing that you desire to publish all matters of interest to the farmers of Maine in your proper light, I have transposed this upon your line.

I regret the inability to convey to you an idea of the benefits arising from the use of straw.

"The benefit arising from growing strawberries, grapes, &c., in the winter without being actually killed, is that is the greatest economy, and a saving to the grower."

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